

Customs Modernization

June 2001 Newsletter for Oversight Organizations

Modernization At-A-Glance

ITDS and ACE will Integrate

In response to a recommendation from the General Accounting Office, the International Trade Data System (ITDS) program management responsibilities were transferred from the Software Development Division to the CMO effective May 2. The CMO will ensure an integrated approach to the development of ITDS and the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE).

Timeline

- June: Anticipate award of Task Orders 1, 2, & 3
- August 1: Increment 1 requirements due from Trade Support Network
- September 5: Recommendations on high level requirements for all of ACE due from Trade Support Network

Contract Awarded – What Next?

With funds in place and a prime integration partner on board, Customs is poised and ready to begin design and development of the much-anticipated Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). Customs is currently negotiating the first three task orders with the e-Customs Partnership, and expects issuance later this month.

Task One: Program Management

Task one calls for the establishment of the program management structure for the e-Customs Partnership team. It requires development of the program office, which will help Customs and the e-Customs Partnership work together effectively and efficiently.

Task Two: Enterprise Architecture and Engineering

Task two requires the e-Customs Partnership to develop ACE architecture and engineering. It specifies an enterprise-level approach to ensure the ACE

infrastructure, operational processes, and systems will be easily integrated Customs-wide.

Task Three: ACE Requirements and Planning

Task three involves the definition of ACE requirements—or what ACE will do—at functional and technical levels. Customs staff from all aspects of the organization will contribute their knowledge and expertise to this effort.

Trade Support Network

The first meeting of the Trade Support Network (TSN) in 2001 took place in Arlington, Va, May 14–16. Over 100 representatives from various trade groups attended. The goal of this meeting was to engage the trade community in providing requirements recommendations for ACE.

To help the TSN focus on the issues surrounding ACE, several subcommittees were formed to address specific areas. Their recommendations for the first phase of ACE development will be submitted by August 1.

“We’ve progressed from theory, debate, and discussion...now is the time to do the work to make modernization happen.”

*—Charles W. Winwood
Acting Commissioner
U.S. Customs Service*

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